

AL-I-B-030
Indigo Tunnel

Indigo Tunnel is located on the Western Maryland Railway's Cumberland Extension which was begun in 1903 and was completed in 1905. This tunnel is the longest of five tunnels on the line, and the longest tunnel in Allegany County, including all railroads. The 4350 foot tunnel, north of Little Orleans, is supported by wooden beam arches. Cement portals on both ends have corbeled edges and semi-circular openings. The tunnel is in good condition although its tracks have been removed.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Indigo Tunnel

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Western Maryland Railway

Sixth

CITY, TOWN

Little Orleans ☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Allegany

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☒ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☒ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

The Chessie System

Telephone #: 724-3000

STREET & NUMBER

722 Virginia Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

STATE, zip code

VICINITY OF

Maryland 21502

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Allegany County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

30 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

STATE

Maryland 21502

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

AL-I-6-030

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Indigo Tunnel is located on the Cumberland Extension of the Western Maryland Railway north of Little Orleans.

The tunnel is 4350 feet in length and is supported by wooden beam arches. Cement portals on both ends have corbeled edges and semicircular openings. It was designed for single track usage. The tracks have been removed.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1903-05 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Construction of the Western Maryland Railway's Cumberland Extension began in 1903 and was completed in 1905. (1)

A modern railroad, extending from Big Pool to Cumberland, a distance of 60 miles, was built under the direction of J.Q. Barlow as Chief Engineer. The line lies in the Potomac River Valley for the entire distance, and for the greater part of the distance parallels the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. (2)

The single line track was built in two years overcoming natural obstacles of mountains and the Potomac River and the man-made obstacles of the National Turnpike and the C and O Canal. The extension was opened for all traffic in June of 1906. (3)

Indigo Tunnel is the longest of the five tunnels on the line, and the longest tunnel in Allegany County including all railroads. The 4350 foot tunnel, north of Little Orleans, is supported by wooden beam arches. (4) Cement portals on both ends have corbeled edges and semicircular openings. The tunnel is in good condition although its tracks have been removed.

- (1) Edward M. Killough History of Western Maryland Railway (Baltimore Voluntary Relief Department Press) p. 21
- (2) Ibid
- (3) Ibid, p. 22
- (4) Ibid

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Killough Edward M. History of Western Maryland Railway Company (Baltimore
Voluntary Relief Department Press, 1938)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

David A. Dorsey, Historic Sites Coordinator
Julie Baker, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Allegany County Historic Sites

DATE

March 4, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

3 Pershing Street

TELEPHONE

777-5944

CITY OR TOWN

Cumberland

STATE

Maryland 21502

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

INVENTORY NO: A1-1-B CBC

DATE: 12/79

REMODELING: Drastic, moderate, minor

NAME OF PROPERTY: Indigo Tunnel

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: W Md. Ry vicinity of Little Orleans

DIRECTION DWELLING FACES: _____

NAME OF OWNER: Chessie System

ADDRESS: _____

STORIES: 1() 2() 3() 4() 5() 6() BAYS: 1() 2() 3() 4() 5() 6() 7() ()

WINGS, ADDITIONS:

DWELLING SHAPE: (square, cross, rectangular) single track

WALL CONSTRUCTION: supported by wooden arches

- () FRAME: Bevel, clapboard, weatherboard, wood shingles, board & batten (type?)
() BRICK: Bond type - common, English, Flemish. Sketch variants.
() STONE: Bond type - rubble, ashlar (random or regular), quoins-plain, rusticated
() LOG
(☒) OTHER: Coverings cement portals on either end corbeled edge semicirc.

WALL FEATURES: Belt Course, Pilasters, Others openings

FOUNDATIONS: High, Low, Brick, Stone

WATER TABLE: None, Plain, Beveled, Moulded Brick

WINDOWS, TRIM, SHUTTERS: 1/1() 2/2() 6/6() 9/6() 9/9() other()
pegged() nailed() wide() narrow() mitred() pediment()

ENTRANCE, DOORS: LOCATION: _____
HARDWARE: original() replaced()
FAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAIN
Paneled, Vertical, Horizontal Boards

CORNICE, BARGE, EAVES: (crown, fascia, soffit, bed)
original() replaced() rafter ends, modillions, dentils, frieze, architrave

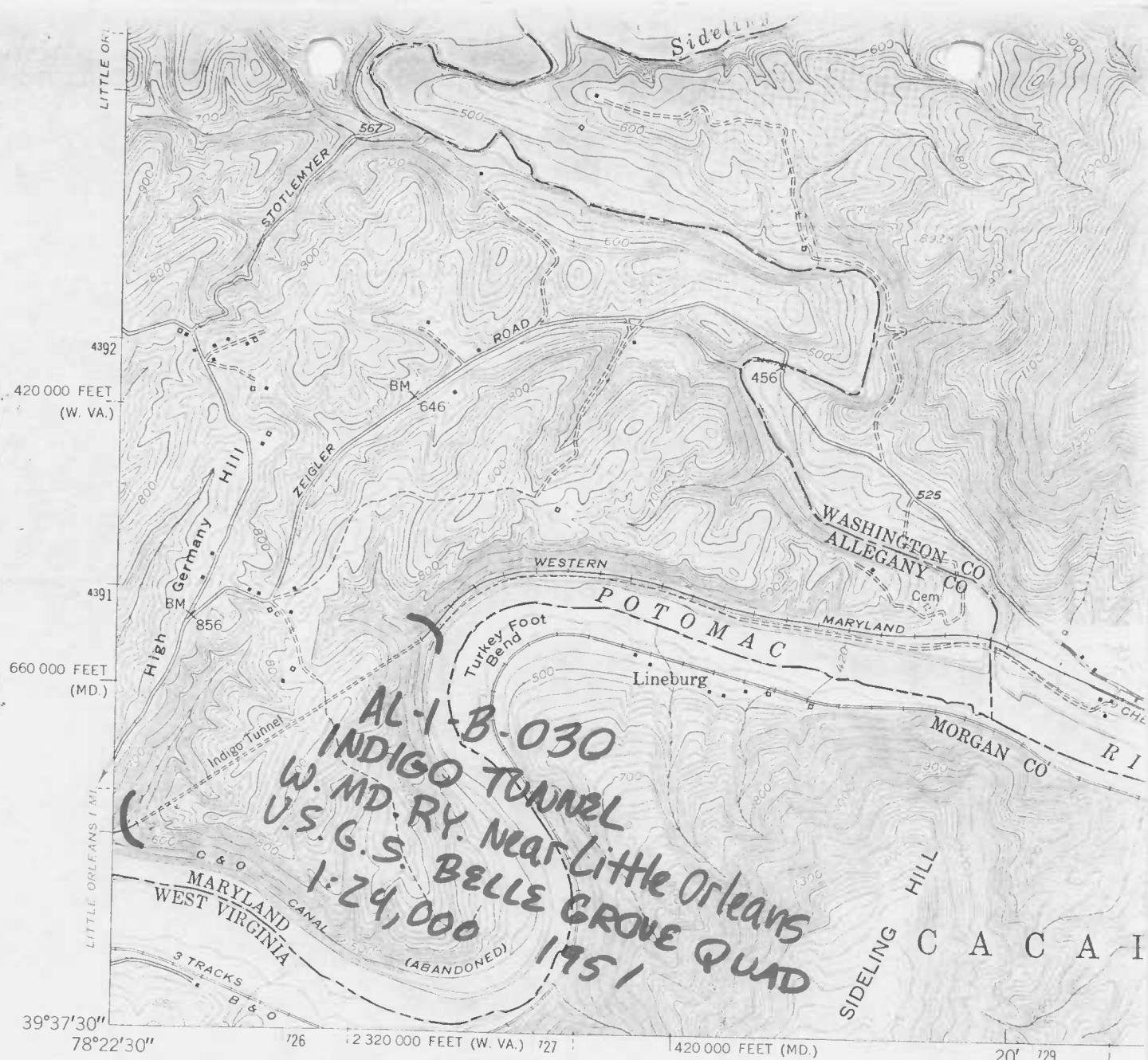
ROOF: Gable front, Gable flank, Hip, Shed, Mansard, Gambrel, Flat, Dormers # _____
MATERIAL: wood shingles, slate, tin, asphalt; original() replaced()

PORCHES: SHAPE OF ROOF - shed() hip() gable()

CHIMNEYS: Number: _____ Brick() Stone() Corbeled() original() replaced()
Location: Flush end() Inside end() Outside end() Central() Interior()

ARCHES: Door & Windows: Keystone, Flat, Segmental, Semicircular

DOORWAYS:



(PAW PAW)
5363 III SW

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods
Aerial photographs taken 1947. Field check 1951

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Maryland coordinate system,
Pennsylvania coordinate system, south zone, and
West Virginia coordinate system, north zone





AL-1-B-030

Indigo Tunnel

W. Md. Ry near Little Orleans

David A. Dorsey

12/11/79

Southwest